

**From:** David McCuskey  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/23/02 8:05pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement - needs to be stronger!

hello,

just wanted to say that the Microsoft settlement is a **\*\*BAD\*\*** idea. it essentially rewards them for their monopolistic behavior by giving them a tax write-off ( not paying full price for software/machines via inflated prices )and entering in an area ( education ) for which they haven't been able to grab.

#### == Quality

Microsoft products are sub-standard by any means and are expensive, but MS can afford to continue this practice because they are a monopoly. they purposefully withhold information regarding their products ( protocol specifications, etc ) so that their software will be preferred on their system ( even over other windows-based software ).

Their previous operating systems: ( esp Win95, Win98 ) were some of the buggyest OS's around ( this is documented ). i have first hand experience - i run Win98 because i need to use Internet Explorer on a PC to check websites that i create.

Microsoft software has been shown to be extremely insecure ( even by MS themselves ) - just search for the various security holes and viruses from this past year alone - and is running on a majority of the computers in the world. this is scary. they do not act quickly enough for their position of responsibility. ( to handle this, they usually come out with another version of an OS, name it something different, and charge people again for a fix to the problems that were in the original software ).

#### == File formats

MS has purposefully safeguarded file formats and changed them ( notably, MS Word ) so that their software 1. is constantly re-purchased by the users ( though most people don't need any new 'features' ) 2. other software manufactures cannot create competing software ( due to file format incompatibility issues ).

#### ==Open Source

their stance against Open Source software is totally unfounded. with OS, they have found an opponent that they cannot fight or buy so have resorted to their Fear, Uncertainty and Doubt ( FUD ) tactics, and have barred OS software from their systems.

OS software is some of the best written AND SUPPORTED software on the planet because there are many people who can look at and change the code. it has been proven that this model works - and practically all Universities, and many companies, etc use OS software on a daily basis ( Perl, Python, mySQL, PostgreSQL, Apache, emacs, Linux, GCC ( software compiler ), etc ). all of these are highly regarded as the best tools.

and a majority of the Internet is created and run with these tools.

it is the end-users that are suffering for these practices. development and innovation have been stifled ( R&D isn't necessary if you're the 'Only Kid on the Block' ) and their computing experiences are rife with frustration ( ask me, my parents and friends ).

Push for a harder settlement:

i don't think the settlement is enough - the amount they should have to pay should be 10 times more... they have gained their position of power and wealth via monopolistic practices.

thank you,  
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programmer and consultant

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